

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the present application.

A. Status of the Claims

In this Amendment B, claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 21-25, 27-28, 30-31, 33, and 43-44 remain pending, while claims 14-20 and 35-42 have been canceled. Additionally, claims 43 and 44 have been amended, while claims 45-57 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 21-25, 27-28, 30-31, 33, and 43-57 are now pending.

Claim 43 has been amended to incorporate the requirements of now canceled claim 14, from which it previously depended. Similarly, claim 44 has been amended to incorporate the requirements of now canceled claim 35, from which it previously depended.

New claims 45-50 depend from claim 43 and find support in now canceled claims 15-20, respectively.

New claims 51-57 depend from claim 44 and find support in now canceled claims 36-42, respectively.

B. Rejection of Claims 14-20 and 35-42 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

It is to be noted that, in this Amendment B, Applicants have canceled claims 14-20 and 35-42 without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a separate application.

C. Allowable Subject Matter and New Claims

Applicants acknowledge the Office's indication of allowability of the subject matter of claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 21-25, 27-28, 30-31 and 33.

Applicants also acknowledge the Office's indication that claims 43 and 44 would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Inasmuch as Applicants have so amended claims 43 and 44 in this Amendment B, it is respectfully submit that these claims are now in condition for allowance, as well.

D. New Claims 45-50 and 51-57

As previously noted, Applicants respectfully submit that 43 and 44 are now in condition for allowance. Inasmuch as new claims 45-50 and 51-57 depend from claims 43 and 44, respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that these new claims contain allowable subject matter, as well.

CONLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims (i.e., claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 21-25, 27-28, 30-31, 33 and 43-57).

Applicants do not believe that a fee is due in connection with this Amendment B. If, however, the Commissioner determines that a fee is due, he is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



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CMG/DEA/lrw

VIA EFS
Mail Stop Amendment